

STAT The problem at this point in time is principally financial, not technical. The machine is substantially completed, but work is stopped for lack of funds. It was evident that it had been stopped for some time as the chassis was stripped of glassware, electronics, and most sub-assemblies. [] indicated they expected to bring in three electronic technicians and two assemblers next week to start final assembly and check out of the machine.

STAT [] said they had solved their financial problem and were now ready to start work again. He offered no proof or indication of how they had solved the problem, and I didn't press it since that is not my field. In my opinion, these people need help. It would be disastrous not to help them. You would lose the whole machine.

STAT [] indicated that all the parts and subassemblies are complete except for one power supply chassis for the lamp. All the main wiring and the circuit boards are complete. They lack several key buyouts such as the projection lens and the laser which however would not take long to get, with money. The field service work on the ACIC machine generated several circuit changes which they said have also been incorporated into this machine. There is one technical problem open which is discrimination of two closely spaced targets. [] said that [] has the circuit designed to solve the problem. STAT

STAT [] indicated they are completely committed to using the laser for measuring. They have discarded the Ferranti and have cancelled their order for gratings. They have split with [] and he is no longer involved. [] is working directly with [] STAT

Declass Review by NGA.

Stellar Comparator

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September 4, 1964

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[] felt that [] did not have an adequate understanding of the fundamental physics of the situation. [] operated the laser measuring device on the ACIC machine before it was shipped and they believe that laser measurement is now working hardware. I have not seen it demonstrated. [] has been willing to loan them lasers and work with them because it is a new field of application for their lasers.

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The machine appears to be 80% or more complete. It requires a few more parts, final assembly, and checkout. This, however, cannot be done over night and there are a few months of work still left. In addition, a machine of this precision and complexity will require shakedown after delivery and installation. I believe you should consider writing a service contract for post-delivery work.

The machine is so nearly complete that I would recommend some careful and controlled financial assistance in order to finish it and take delivery. There is still technical risk, however. The laser measuring technique is new and the rigidity and stability of their mechanical structure has not been demonstrated.

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